2. The Panchayat Standing Committee will exercise supervision over early childhood care and education, non-formal education, primary education and adult education programmes in its jurisdiction. It will also exercise supervision over composite upper primary schools under delegation of powers from the Panchayat Samiti.

3. The Panchayat Samiti Standing Committee on Education will be responsible for management of adult education, non-formal education, early Childhood care and education and schools of the Panchayati Raj bodies upto upper primary level, under the overall supervision of the Zilla Parishad.

4. The powers of the Zilla Parishad Standing Committee on Education will include establishment and maintenance of schools upto secondary level including recruitment and appointment of staff and payment of salaries, subject to government guidelines. All existing schools upto secondary level will be transferred to the control of Zilla Parishad. In future all secondary schools in the state sector will be established only by the Zilla Parishad. The Committee will also channelize grants to aided schools subject to Government rules. It will also exercise academic supervision of all schools including private schools upto secondary level.

5. The government primary, upper primary and secondary schools in the municipal areas alongwith their staff may be transferred to different Municipalities. They will have control over the staff except in matters of recruitment which will be done by an organisation designated for this purpose by the State Government.

6. The State Government may provide adequate grants to these bodies for managing the institutions transferred to them as well as development grants.

7. The State Government of an appropriate state level body would exercise overall supervision and retain residuary powers.

[English]

Privatisation of University and Professional Education

1328. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise university and professional education;

(b) if so, whether foreign universities and institutions will be permitted to operate in the country on their own or in partnership with private universities;

(c) if so, whether the private universities will have the freedom to have their own staff recruitment and student admission policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) Privatisation connotes transfer of control, fully or partially in respect of institutions or enterprises existing under the Government to private parties, Government has no intention to resort to privatisation. Establishment of Universities in the country require either a specific or general enabling legislation. A Bill, Private Universities (Establishment & Regulation) Bill 1995 is pending consideration in the Rajya Sabha. In any case, there is no general enabling provision in the Bill to provide for collaboration of Private Universities with foreign Universities. The general issue of regulating operations of Foreign Universities in the country is separately engaging the attention of the Government.

Indo-Japan Study Committee

1329. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indo-Japan Study Committee has been reconstituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the major achievements of Committee during the last three years, and main projects to be taken up for strengthening Indo-Japanese economic cooperations

(d) whether Chairman, Indo-Japan Study Committee has urged the Government to upgrade political equation with Japan by imparting geo-economic orientation to India's foreign policy;

(e) if so, the details of the observations and recommendations made by the Committee;

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto and status of action taken on the recommendations;

(g) whether similar study committees are also proposed to be set up for strengthening socio-economic cooperation with other major countries; and

(h) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The India-Japan Study Committee has been re-constituted. The present members in the India-Japan Study Committee is at Annexure 'A'.

(c) India-Japan Study Committee promotes an exchange of views on a wide range of subjects covering economic, cultural and social matters of mutual interest and facilitates understanding and cooperation between the two countries. The proposal for setting up of an industrial model town in Haryana resulted from the interaction between the two sides of the Committee. A final decision has not yet been taken on this proposal.

(d) and (e) The Chairman, India-Japan Study Committee has not made any specific recommendations on the foreign policy of India *vis-a-vis* Japan.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) No such proposals are presently under consideration.

Annexure'A'

The India-Japan Study Committee

India Committee	Japan Committee
Dr. G. Thimmaiah, Chairman Member, Planning Commission	Mr. T. Kaifu, Hon. Chairman Former Prime Minister of Japan
Shri Salman Haidar, Foreign Secretary Govt. of India	Mr. Eijiro Noda, Chairman Ex- Ambassador of Japan in India.
Shri Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Industries Ltd.	Ms. Chie Nakane, Director, Shibusawa Foundation for Ecological Studies.
Shri Arjun Asrani Ex-Ambassador of India in Japan	Mr. Minoru Oda, President, The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research.
Shri Shekhar Datta, President Confederation of Indian Industries.	Mr. Kenji Yoshizawa, Deputy President, Bank of Japan
Shri Deepak Parekh Chairman, Housing Development Finance Corporation	Mr. S. Taketomi, Managing Director, The Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd.
Mrs. Devaki Jain, Honorary Adviser, National Commission for Women	Mr. Toshio Yamanouchi, Executive Adviser, Okara & Co. Ltd.
Prof. C.N.R. Rao President Jawaharlal Nehru Centre Advanced Scientific	Mr. Kyoichi Suzuki Senior Executive, Managing Director, Mitsui & Co. Ltd.
Adviser (I&M) Member-Planning Secretary Commission	Mr. Hisaya Nara, President, Mitsubishi Eco. Research Institute.
	Mr. Yoshinobu Sei, Member-Secretary

Autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir

1330. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Dr. Farooq Abdullah had a meeting with the US Under Secretary of State, Ms. Robin Raphel at Delhi on February 2, 1997 and, as per press reports, they discussed the issue of Autonomy to Jammu & Kashmir; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government to the discussion of this sensitive issue by the Chief Minister with a foreign diplomat?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Ms. Robin Raphel called on the Chief Minister of J&K on February 2, 1997 in New Delhi. The US Ambassador to India was also present at the meeting. The Chief Minister reviewed the General post-election scenario in the state with particular emphasis on the State Government's efforts to revive the administration and rebuild the state's economic and social infrastructure. As a part of this review, the question of autonomy as envisaged within the framework of the Indian Constitution, was also mentioned. The Chief Minister mentioned that this matter was being examined by a Committee headed by Dr. Karan Singh in order to elicit the views of all sections of the population of the state.

(b) Visiting senior officials from countries including the US routinely call on Chief Ministers and Governors during their visits to India. The discussions between the Chief Minister and the US Assistant Secretary were of a general nature regarding plans for reviving development activity in the state of J&K.

Silk Worms

1331. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Science (IIS) in Bangalore are coaxing silk worms to manufacture hormones and vaccines;

(b) whether worms so engineered, can act as factors for manufacturing important biomolecules; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) :(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore has produced harmones through silk worms and is presently working on the synthesis of vaccine candidate proteins. The silkworms, if standardized in appropriate conditions, can serve as "natural bioreactors". The biomolecules are produced using recombinant DNA methodologies through animal cell cultures, and once the "recombinant virus" is generated, the silkworm larval caterpillar can be used to produce the molecules.